

**MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE WORK SESSION HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024, AT 9:00 AM VIA ZOOM WITH AN ANCHOR LOCATION AT THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL WORK ROOM LOCATED AT 2277 EAST BENGAL BOULEVARD, COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS, UTAH**

**Members Present:** Mayor Mike Weichers, Council Member Suzanne Hyland, Council Member Ellen Birrell

**Staff Present:** City Manager Tim Tingey, Records Culture and Human Resources Director Paula Melgar, Administrative and Financial Services Director Scott Jorges, IT Manager Matt Ervin, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Matt Shipp

**City Lobbyists:** Brian Allen, Chantel Nate, Greg Curtis

**Excused:** Council Member Matt Holton, Council Member Shawn Newell, Police Chief Robby Russo, Community and Economic Development Director Michael Johnson

**1. Welcome – Mayor Weichers.**

Mayor Mike Weichers called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM and welcomed those present.

**2. Legislative Update and Discussion – City Manager, Tim Tingey and City Lobbyists Greg Curtis, Brian Allen, and Chantel Nate.**

City Lobbyist, Brian Allen presented the Legislative Update and reported that several bills have been centered around affordable housing and homelessness. He would continue to work with the Utah League of Cities and Towns (“ULCT”). He provided updates on the following:

- SB-268 Senator Wayne Harper – First Time Homebuyers. This bill pertains to first-time homebuyers and provides affordable housing options. Language was now out.
- HB-353 Representative Bridger Bolinder – Mining Operation Amendments. This bill continues to move through the House. The ULCT has taken a neutral position.
- HB-502 Representative Casey Snider – Critical Infrastructure and Mining. This bill has shifted to a study item to be conducted over the Summer of 2024.
- HB-180 Representative Gay Lynn Bennion – Short-Term Rentals. This bill has been through multiple iterations with no enforcement provisions. The Property Rights Coalition opposes the bill as it does not accomplish much in terms of enforcement. They were, however, willing to give up the prohibition on using websites as an enforcement tool. The ULCT was also opposed.
- The Storm Water Bill was not heard in Committee. The ULCT is working toward a solution that makes sense.
- Mr. Allen reported that there are multiple Affordable Housing Bills. All of the bills that are in place are supported by the ULCT. None of the bills involve mandates but are to help

create more affordable housing. Representative Steve Waldrip has done a masterful job of negotiating while working toward a solution. The ULCT remains active.

- There are currently 586 active Bills in the House of Representatives. That number could reach over 600 for the first time. Mr. Allen reported that the current Legislative Session will close on February 27. A bill would have to pass out of its own House or not be considered further. The Legislature continues to meet late in the evenings to work through the current bills.

City Lobbyist, Greg Curtis joined the meeting.

Mayor Weichers questioned the status of HB-101, which removes the requirement for the Education Property Tax. The purpose would be to remove the sales tax on food. City Lobbyist, Greg Curtis understood that it is the companion bill for a Constitutional Amendment that would be voted on in the fall of 2024. He was unsure whether the removal of the tax applies to the City or County portion or if it only pertains to the State portion. The concern was with the removal of the food tax, which will impact a large portion of City Sales Tax Revenue and need to be supplemented in some other way. Mr. Allen confirmed that the sales tax on food will only pertain to the State's portion of 1.75%. The cut would not directly impact cities.

Mr. Allen reported that the Public Safety bill pertains to the Cottonwood Canyons Fund. There is \$1.5 million designated toward traffic improvements along Fort Union Boulevard and 2300 East. He stated that the movement of the bill looks promising.

Council Member Birrell asked for an update on HB-449, HB-345, and HB-201. Mr. Curtis provided the following updates:

- HB-449 – Bicycle Safety Mandate to be considered in street design. This bill is out of the House and will be heard by the Transportation Senate Committee.
- HB-345 – Increase in Fines for Speeding in Construction and School Zones. This bill has passed out of the House and Senate Committee and is on its second reading in the Senate Committee.
- HB-201 – Allowing Speed Cameras in the City for Enforcement. This bill is still with the House Transportation Committee. A substitute bill has been put forward.

Mr. Curtis reported that all of the above bills have the support of the ULCT.

Mayor Weichers thanked Messrs. Curtis and Allen for their ongoing efforts.

### **3. Adjourn.**

**MOTION:** Council Member Birrell moved to ADJOURN. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hyland. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The Work Session adjourned at 9:22 AM.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Cottonwood Heights City Council Legislative Work Session held Thursday, February 22, 2024.*

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes  
T Forbes Group  
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: March 19, 2024